

(a) the year in which the Alliance Air, subsidiary of Indian Airlines was formed;

(b) whether there is any difference in the pay structure and other service conditions between the Pilots, Engineers, Crew and other staff members of Indian Airlines and Alliance Air; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) Alliance Air is the brand name of Airline operated by Airline Allied Services Limited (AASL), a wholly owned subsidiary set up by Indian Airlines Ltd. in 1983. Alliance Air commenced airline operations with effect from 15th of April, 1996.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. However, the terms and conditions of employment of personnel in Indian Airlines and Alliance Air are not comparable being two different organisations. Alliance Air is taking Pilots and other personnel on payment of deputation allowance from Indian Airlines and in case of non-availability, on contract basis from open market.

[*Translation*]

Stoppage/Halt of Trains at Railway Stations

2167. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the rules prescribed for stoppage/halt of a train at railway station;

(b) whether representations have been received from the Members of Parliament for providing halts/stoppages of trains alongwith the details of railway stations during the last one year; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) The stoppage of any train is decided keeping in view volume and nature of traffic, availability of existing services and characteristic of the train etc.

(b) and (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

[*English*]

Gauge Conversion

2168. SHRI SANAT MEHTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to convert Mehsana-Patan meter gauge line into broad gauge line with a condition to discontinue uneconomic branch line of Kalol-Katosan;

(b) if so, whether the Government of Gujarat has

requested to convert the above line into broad gauge without affecting present services of Kalol-Katosan; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[*Translation*]

Graphite Reserve in Bihar

2169. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of graphite reserve in Sokara village of Chainpur Block in district Palamu, Bihar; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and time by which the exploration work is likely to be started in this area?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Sokara area was investigated by Geological Survey of India (GSI) during 1965-66. The investigation has located graphite bearing zone 160m long with an average width of 1.5m. The total reserves are estimated to be 6000 tonnes.

However, the proved reserves of graphite in the entire district of Palamu, Bihar are 78000 tonnes as on 1.4.90 (Source: National Mineral Inventory).

Presently there is no proposal to start further investigation in this area by the Geological Survey of India.

Gauge Conversion

2170. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the conversion work of meter gauge line into broad gauge line between Katihar and Jog-Bani section via Purnia is pending;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have prepared any scheme in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (d) Updating survey for Gauge Conversion of Katihar-Jogbani via Purnia has been taken up.

Further consideration of the project would be possible once the survey report becomes available.